

Studies on Mikania (Compositae)-XIII

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Following are additional records preliminary to a treatment of the Mikania of Mexico.

Mikania aromatica Oerst., Overs Dansk Selsk. Forh. 10.1863, is cited by Kew Index as Brazilian. However, Williams (1975), states that "a photograph of the original specimen in Copenhagen shows this is the rather common Mexican (Vera Cruz, Oaxaca, Chiapas) and Central American species, extending from Guatemala to Costa Rica. The heads of the inflorescences are contracted into globose glomerules, ... Kew Index is incorrect in giving this species as Brazilian. The Costa Rican M. tonduzii Rob. perhaps is to be referred to this species."

Examination of the type specimen provided no information as to the origin of Mikania aromatica. It appeared identical to the Brazilian M. smilicina DC and was annotated as such by F. W. Klatt. The only other data on the label includes the name Mikania aromatica Oersted and the abandoned before published name of Mikania in combination with the specific epithet of the Neea species mentioned below. Personal communication with (Mrs.) A. Fox Maule, Curator of Type Specimens at Copenhagen, documents the type locality of this plant.

"Whereas Oersted's description is in Latin the report of how he got the plant is in Danish which may be the cause of the confusion. Oersted's own collections are from Central America (Costa Rica and Nicaragua) and from the Antilles. The collector of the Mikania was, however, the Danish botanist and zoologist P. W. Lund who lived most of his life in Lagoa Santa, Minas Geraes, Brazil. He had made experiments in making tea from another plant, Neea theifera Oerst., mixed with the Mikania. He sent both specimens to a friend in Denmark, who submitted the plants to Professor Scharling, the chemist, for chemical examination, and to Professor Oersted for description. The paper is a joint publication in the proceedings of the Royal Danish Scientific Society."

Mikania aromatica is, therefore, from that location in Brazil and is considered synonymous with M. smilicina. The plants referred to as M. aromatica by Williams (1975) and Nash and Williams (1976) should correctly be called Mikania tonduzii B.L. Robins. Heyde & Lux 3430, cited by Nash and Williams as the type (of M. aromatica ?) is actually the type of Willughbaea globosa Coult (= Mikania globosa Coult). This plant of Guatemala and Oaxaca, Mexico is considered a distinct species.

Mikania tehuacanensis W. Holmes, sp. nov.

Suffrutex volubilis. Foliis late ovatis, ca 4 x 3 cm, apice acuminatis, basi subcordatis vel truncatis, marginibus subintegris ad crenato-dentatis. Capitulescentiis corymbosis. Capitulis 10-10.5 mm longis. Corollis ca 5.2 mm longis, dentibus limbi oblongo-linearis, ca. 3.2 mm longis. Achaenis ca 3 mm longis. Pappi setis ca. 60, 5-6 mm longis, scabridis.

Shrubby vine to 2 m long. Stems terete, striate, densely hispid; internodes to 12 cm long. Leaf blades broadly ovate, ca 4 x 3 cm, apices acuminate, margins subentire to crenate-dentate, hispid-ciliate, bases subcordate or truncate to an acute insertion, upper surfaces nearly glabrate, lower surfaces hispid, densely so on the nerves, palmately 3 or 5 nerved from the base. Petioles 2.5-3 cm long, thin, hispid. Capitulescence a corymb, 5-7 cm wide and 4-6 cm high, borne on hispid branchlets 6-8 cm long; ultimate branchlets 1-4 mm long, hispid; bracts similar to leaves but smaller and with acute bases. Heads 10-10.5 mm long, subinvolucral bracts elliptic to oblanceolate, 8-9 mm long, hispid, nerved, more markedly so on the abaxial side, apices acute to acuminate. Phyllaries broadly elliptic, 8-9 mm long, the outer pair hispid, apices acuminate, margins hispid-ciliate, inner pair glabrate, apices long acuminate, sparsely hispid, margins slightly hispid-ciliate above the middle. Corollas ca 5.2 mm long, tube ca 2.2 mm long, throat apparently lacking, teeth oblong-linear, ca. 3 mm long, apices acuminate, glandular and pubescent with several jointed hispid hairs, inner basal surfaces of teeth papillose with hirsute glandular hairs. Achenes ca. 3 mm long, sparingly puberulent. Pappus bristles ca. 60, 5-6 mm long, white, the margins scabrid.

Type: Mexico. Puebla, Tehuacán area, above Teotitlan del Camino on the road to Huautla from the lower edge of the oak-pine forest to the top of the ridge, 2000-3250 m, 3 Aug 1961, Smith, Peterson, & Tejeda 4144 (holotype: GH; isotype: F).

The new species is distinctive in having a corolla lacking a well defined throat. At maturity the corolla teeth are oblong-linear and greater in length than the tube. The plant resembles Mikania cristata B. L. Robins., but lacks the enlarged and crested stipular-enations characteristic of that species.

Literature Cited

- Williams, L. O. 1975. Tropical American Plants XVII. Fieldiana: Botany 36: 77-110.
- Nash, D. L. & L. O. Williams. 1976. Flora of Guatemala. Fieldiana: Botany 24, pt. 12: 1-603.